NEWS AND NOTES OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS

Little Journey With Cyril Keightley needed keys and most of all it needed tuning, but in the division there was

By Harriette Underhill

hes" with Billie Burke. haven't it." her that wasn't such a

on the sart you want the heroine Piano Used in "Let's Beat It"

on the instalment plan, but as our In the great drive of March 21, when Boche instrument.

thoroughly. To us it meant spend- busch Lake. ng two hours in a Pullman train with On July 9 the 27th Division took

Keightley, but we stayed only long nough to convince ourself that he was ake "a splendid subject" et a promise from him to

As a matter of fact, we were afraid we waited we should miss some of he second act, but when the curtain over their disgraceful flirtation. e, they were merely jealous seems they weren't out having diner with Jim West. So were we.

At any rate, after the performance and Julie had promised to arm in a sling and all his make-up on that we told him we should

that we had a tea engagement at Rector's, and Mr. Keightley said he would Well, he wasn't dressed very soon,

for he had no more than seated himself . for a cup of tea than he had to leap away to the Lambs to meet Montagu Love, but he promised to be at the theatre at 7:30. And he was! At last we had an interview and we stayed so long that surely the curtain did not go up 8:30 that night. go up 8:30 that night.

We always supposed that Mr. Keightley was an Englishman, but he isn't. He is an Australian and never saw England until he was grown up. And he has lived in Africa, and he speaks the language of all the different tribes! Not all of them fluently, of course, but enough to prevent any of them from eating him.

And he has played in New Zealand, and in his repertoire is one play in the native tongue. Fancy having to learn a whole language just to produce one play! Plenty of actors we could name do not go to that trouble. "And how did you get to be an actor?" we asked.

"Well, I don't know, exactly. I guess I just wasn't good for anything else." "Then how did you get to be such a good actor?" "I don't know that. I don't even

know that I am a good actor, though the people over here have been wonderfully kind to me. Do you think I am a good actor?"

"Well," we answered, "we should go to sec you in 'East Lynne' and like it. That's how you stand with us."
"East Lynne," said Mr. Keightley. masingly. "That was my first play. I was seventeen and playing the lead. We rehearsed it in the morning and played it at night. Nobody knew his lines, and to make matters worse, an

trate father came and stole 'Little Willie, who had been loaned to us by a mother who had aspirations for her offspring. lie in his cot and say 'Mamma, mamma!'

"Now, all Willie had to do was to plaintively. So our business manager volunteered to play the part if we would set up a screen around the cot o conceal the fact that he weighed 200 ounds, and he laughed so that he broke the bed down and knocked over

AMUSEMENTS

POLO GROUNDS TO 1830 BENEFIT OF THE **ACTORS' FUND**

"And in another play, in the awful cheesecloth curtain on an amazing "39 East," the chaos of the moment, I gave them the truly Broadway production. West Forty- wrong cue and we played the third act Theatre, to be before the second and then had to to Steenvorde. A performance was to

and we immedi- delightful actor!"

ce we watched him training can ever give you if you

And here a hard-hearted call boy and we left Mr. by in a play we never care whether it | Keightley to prepare for his little journey without telling him why.

have interviewed Cyril Keightley and a big upright instrument, captured by to Joncourt, and after the division had is not degrading. Moreover, they are ad been interviewed, but we think we over more than a thousand miles of soldiers. Throughout all this time, dur-It is because he never has fighting area and three thousand miles ing spare moments, the musicians not prevent its also being funny. Con-

husiness happens to be the thing we hordes of Germans swept back the Althe world, of course, we lies and took Kemmel, they brought "A Little Journey" started so long strings and placed it in a ferro-con ago that we can't remember what any crete dugout near the little Belgian the critics said about it, so we town of Watteau in the Dickebusch hidn't feel guilty when we enjoyed it sector, in the lowlands, near the Dicke-

Cvril Keightley, which is entertainment over the line comprising the Dickebusch and Steenvorde sectors, and But this was not all! After the first found the piano in its dark dugout. It

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get the instrument out of its hiding The Innocent Illusions place. The piano needed strings, i the screen and the people out in front troupe, having erected a stage and

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of Bedroom Farceurs odds the most impeccable and the most easily shocked we have ever met!

thought it was all a part of the play. built scenery at Oudezeele, rang up the legitimate form of entertainment. French bedroom farce for American play the seeind act last. They liked be given in that racked, deserted vil- adapted for an American audience, shell of the original. Witness the atthat play so well that it stayed two lage, but the Boche sent an early auThe latter is a bastard form. It is, tenuated mildness of "Sleeping Part"double entendre." In a French farce ing sidelights on the business of being

worked out "Let's Beat It" on the old sistency, the jewel of the Anglo- they are stupid. Can it also be that more than a dining room set neces- panies. In stock he was particularly new comedian, and events have borne

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ALWAYS THE BEST

The plane which tinkles out the mel- performances were given before and place in America as an Esquimau in the of late by playwrights seeking ambig- phisticated dogs to have taken it so to laugh. And not a few times a whole way." Therefore, Newbold played the Buthis never having been interceded, and a sinister look! He might be very ad a sinister look! He might be very ad a sinister look! He might be very gives us the key to the game; namely, any one of the characters committed, the new comedian failed to be funny pany in Newark—he had been with the afficult! He might even be like Richby the soldiers of the 27th Division at broke the Hindenburg line. The theaistence of which is recognized in that every member of the party is or even intended committing, the adulfor Broadway." we beg to report that he is quite as O'Ryan's men when they moved into finished its fighting was sent by lorry pragmatists in their comic perceptions. stage is in love with his own wife or they are the merest puffballs of the the fighting lines of Flanders last July, to Le Mans. During three months it If a thing exists it may be laughed at. husband, or flance, as the case may be, plot. "Up in Mabel's Room," true to

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value the Latins their virtue has made them prudes? sarily connotes a scene of drunkenness, successful in Raymond Hitchcock's out his judgment.

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Barrymore

original productions declared that New-The New Comedian bold gave a very good imitation, indeed,

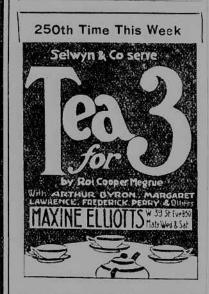
pect each other so easily. Doubtless room does not imply immorality any engagements and musical stock com- Park. He decided to risk launching the

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